



TASK FORCE LIBERTY

Press Release

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FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, TIKRIT, Iraq – The upcoming Iraqi constitutional referendum is now the focus of the world, and the eyes of Task Force Liberty and its Iraqi Security Force partners are tracking it as well, safeguarding Iraqis' right to vote and ensuring a safe election process.

This objective has driven deliberate raids and aggressive patrols by Iraqi soldiers, police and Task Force Liberty Soldiers. These forces are sitting squarely between Iraq and its enemies, netting many of the wanted terrorists on the task force's watch list, while maintaining their engagement with local governments, assisting them in a variety of ways as they move toward this momentous juncture in the history of a renewed, representative Iraq.

Breaking the Cycle of Violence

In the last two weeks, operations in the Task Force Liberty area of operations have resulted in nine insurgents killed, five wounded, and 578 detained. Significant ammunition seized included 421 rockets, mortars, artillery and tank rounds, 83 small arms weapons and grenades, 1,240 small arms ammunition, 22 mines, 10 rocket-propelled grenade launchers (RPGs), and 32 RPG rounds. Major equipment captured four anti-aircraft guns, three mortar systems, 164 pounds of explosives, 7,636 anti-aircraft rounds, 76 assorted fuses, 14 illumination rounds, a rocket tube, a night vision device, a protective mask, a flare gun and five flares. Task Force Liberty operations have also seized \$4,900. Within the division's area of responsibility, 102 improvised explosive devices were discovered prior to detonation, preventing the needless loss of life at the hands of anti-Iraqi Forces.

1st Brigade Combat Team (Raider). Moving into the month of October and the upcoming constitutional referendum, Salah Ad Din officials, both local and provincial, are working to keep the province secure.

Terrorist efforts to disrupt Balad infrastructure were met with determination by the city's citizens and officials September 30. Officials from Balad government, fire department, Iraqi army and Iraqi police came together a day after a horrific September 29 attack by terrorists in the city. The local officials gathered to oversee the clean up of the attack sites while Iraqi army and Iraqi police patrolled the area to deter further terrorist attacks.



The Tikrit Bomb Squad found and recovered a rocket pointed at a Coalition Forces base September 30. The rocket was aimed at the local Coalition Forces headquarters building in Tikrit. Once the bomb squad cleared it was handed over to a Coalition Forces explosive ordnance disposal team for destruction.

Iraqi army soldiers and Coalition Forces detained a suspected insurgent and prevented the detonation of a roadside bomb in early October. Iraqi soldiers discovered the bomb in Balad, and with the assistance of 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry and an explosive ordnance disposal team, secured the site and disabled the explosive. While securing the site, Iraqi soldiers detained a suspected triggermen.

Iraqi police in Khadasia thwarted two terrorists attempts to detonate roadside bombs along Route One in the city October 4. The two bombs were discovered along Business One. Iraqi police cordoned off the area and called in a Coalition Forces explosive ordnance disposal team which destroyed them.

The Salah Ad Din Media Center continued focusing their TV broadcasts toward educating people on the upcoming constitutional referendum. The recently rebuilt media center is preparing to broadcast news on the referendum vote worldwide via satellite and give a voice to Sunnis Muslims.

3rd Brigade Combat Team (Sledgehammer). Soldiers of the 3rd BCT and Iraqi Security Forces conducted operation "Clean all the City" September 23, a three-phase operation consisting of cordons, raids, searches and information gathering. In the first phase, the city was cordoned using flash traffic control checkpoints while Coalition aviation patrolled the west side of Khalis. During phase two, the Iraqi army units moved into position and conducted raids on point targets and other missions in specific areas. In the final phase, Iraqi soldiers and police distributed pamphlets and talked with the local populace. The operation culminated in a press conference with Col. Talabani of the Iraqi army and Col. Abdsalam, the Khalis Chief of Police.

In Muqdadiyah, a rehearsal for security operations pertaining to the upcoming Constitutional Referendum vote was held recently at the Joint Coordination Center. Iraqi army units and the Muqdadiyah Police and Emergency Response and election representatives went over the security plan that allows for the safety of those voting. In Kan'an, Iraqi army leaders met with Task Force Liberty soldiers and discussed their security preparations. Citizens of this village met with the leaders to offer their opinions on the election and the democratic process taking place across Iraq. In Baqubah, leaders of the local government and Iraqi Security Forces held an election-planning meeting on Oct. 3 at the Provincial Joint Coordination Center. During the meeting, Iraqi officials discussed the security plan for polling sites and how to respond to emergencies that may arise the day of the referendum. Officials also talked about how to ensure the safe movement of ballots both to and from the polling sites.

Community leaders and citizens are staying apprised of security preparations. In Al Abarra, 3rd BCT Soldiers met with local leaders on Oct. 1 to discuss the upcoming constitutional referendum and changes



in curfew hours, and driving and weapons bans. The leaders were asked to get the information to residents. In Baqubah, Iraqi soldiers and police met with residents on to discuss the upcoming Constitutional Referendum and changes in curfew hours and the driving ban. The soldiers passed out over 800 flyers detailing the reason for the curfew and why driving will be limited during the voting. The soldiers encouraged all eligible voters to do so on Oct. 15.

In Al Khalis women from across the Diyala Province met on Oct. 2 to discuss the implications of the constitution and to voice their security concerns. The meeting was held at the Al Noor Women's Center.

Iraqi Security Forces have been engaging Iraq's future citizens as well. In Kan'an, students at a local school received a visit from Iraqi soldiers Sept. 29. The commander and soldiers met with the students to talk about the duties and responsibilities of the Iraqi army. The students, who each received a bag of school supplies from the soldiers, entertained the soldiers with local songs. The soldiers also talked with the children about the new government and the new military.

116th Brigade Combat Team (Warrior). Operations of the 116th Brigade Combat Team from Sept. 24 to Oct. 7 focused on supporting security preparation for the October 15 constitutional referendum while maintaining operations.

Iraqi Security Forces have worked diligently over the past two weeks with 116th BCT forces to prepare for seamless combined security during the referendum vote. Representatives from Iraqi Security Forces, Independent Elections Commission—Iraq (IECI), local emergency services and Coalition Forces accomplished a security plan rehearsal October 5 at the Iraqi Army's K1 training facility near Kirkuk. The newest group of Iraqi army recruits is expected to graduate for individual enlisted training days before the referendum. Soldiers of the 116th BCT helped facilitate an election security exercise for the Iraqi army also. Iraqi police have been preparing polling site security, including battle drills.

Iraqi army, police and Task Force Liberty combined operations are targeting wanted terrorists and their weapons. An Iraqi explosives ordnance and demolition team disposed of an IED on an oil pipeline. The 2nd Battalion, 116th Armor detained three suspected terrorists. In the same area of operations, the Iraqi army is now working setting up and operating checkpoints without Task Force Warrior assistance.

In early October, plans and contracts were finalized for \$8.1 million in water infrastructure improvements. One project will increase potable water flow to Kirkuk from two to twenty-eight million gallons per day. Besides large-scale water projects, a provincial landfill and other smaller water, sewer and development projects are progressing. Bushir Village performed canal maintenance, new business opportunities were created in Taza City, and Kotish Village began work on a new school.



Ethnic diversity in the province continues create challenges, but the provincial government continues to resolve explosive issues through negotiation and goal-setting. Ethnic tensions in Bashir, Taiseen and Qush Qayah have been reduced due to the intervention of provincial government officials. The provincial council approved the Provincial Reconstruction and Development Committee's plan for prioritizing and bidding-out government contracts in the province. This will bring transparency to the project contracting process. A major water contract was awarded that will bring clean water to over 700,000 residence when completed. The provincial council also had selected members attend a peace conference in Ankara, Turkey. One of the members got to make one of the last speeches in the conference that focused on peaceful resolution of issues between different groups in the Middle East.

Local media attention continued to focus on education and discussion of the draft constitution and the upcoming referendum the past two weeks. The Iraqi Media Network (IMN) hosted at least three talk shows where they interviewed local IPS, IA and CF leaders regarding security preparations for the Oct. 15 referendum. Brig. Gen. Alan Gayhart, 116th BCT commander, appeared on the IMN Dialogue show Oct. 6 with Maj. Gen. Anwar, 2nd IA Brigade commander, and Maj. Gen. Sherko, Kirkuk police commander, to assure the populace that a strong security plan is in place for the referendum. Other talk shows featured local politicians of various ethnicities discussing the constitution and the reasons Iraqis should participate in the elections.

278th Regimental Combat Team (The Volunteers). The 278th Regimental Combat Team (RCT) from the Tennessee Army National Guard supports the Iraqi people in their march toward a free and democratic society by promoting local governmental infrastructure and training Iraqi security forces.

On Sept. 14, Soldiers from 3rd Squadron, 278th RCT, helped deliver ten computer systems to the Khanaqin School for Boys, one of only two Arabic schools in Khanaqin. These computers were donated and set up by a supplier in the city. The computers will be networked together and eventually connected to the internet. The principal was happy to receive the computers and looks forward to using them to help teach the school children.

The 278th RCT is working for unity and safety among Iraq's diverse political groups in the upcoming elections. On Sept. 25, Lt. Col. William Hart, 1st Squadron Commander, was invited to meet with the leaders of the Al-Nida tribe, the PDK, the PUK and the Turkoman Front to discuss security issues in the Jisr Naft and Mandali areas. Leaders from the Iraqi army were also invited to attend, and the groups agreed to work together to stop roadside bombs.

The 278th RCT has been training Iraqi Security Forces, and that training continues to pay off. During a patrol in the Shohada District of Jalula, Iraqi police spotted two individuals trying to set up a bomb near a school. The police arrested the terrorists and seized the bomb. The police contacted L



Troop, 3rd Squadron, which sent a unit to investigate. Soldiers and police found timers, plastic explosives and Al-Qaeda propaganda.

42nd Engineer Brigade (Detonator). As the Constitutional Referendum approaches, the engineers of Task Force Detonator continue to help shape the battle field in anticipation of the arrival of the 101st Air Assault Division.

Task Force Trailblazer patrolled over 21,000 kilometers of road, finding 35 IEDs. When not patrolling the roadways, task force engineers conducted security missions to support the Iraqi army and infrastructure battalions across the 1st and 3rd BCT's areas of operation and began IED crater repairs on supply routes.

The Combat Heavy and Utility Detachments are hard at work preparing FOBs for the arrival of the 101st Airborne Division. As FOB Speicher expands, the Combat Heavy detachment is completing housing, emergency repairs and improving security measures across the FOB. The Utility Detachment completed a housing area at FOB Warhorse and continued steps to close FOB Danger.

The brigade headquarters also coordinated folded engineer platoons from other units into their Engineer Brigade Design Management Section to complete road and concrete work on FOB Speicher. These Soldiers have brought specialized equipment and vast experience in road construction to help finish this division effort.

Division Support Command (Muleskinner). Though the 42nd Infantry Division is moving closer to the transfer of authority to the 101st Air Assault Division, Division Support Command's (DISCOM) support to divisional units hasn't slackened.

The 42nd Infantry Division is setting the 101st Air Assault Division up for success, and DISCOM is part of that process, reviewing all procedures and support activities. While these systems are being passed on to the 101st Air Assault Division, they must be running at capacity so critical to the parts flow in theater. The DISCOM and the 50th Main Support Battalion (MSB) have been updating and rehearsing their relief plans to ensure a seamless transition. The 50th MSB has already begun a transition with the 13th Corps Support Battalion located on FOB Speicher.

Task Force Exodus has been progressing for several weeks, and over 50 percent of the division's equipment has been moved to Kuwait. This gear will either be shipped back to the United States or added to the Army stocks in Kuwait. This process will save the Army time and money in the future. Theater assets are moving equipment from the various yards to Camp Victory, Kuwait and on to the port. The 50th MSB is busy moving equipment from various FOBs to the yards in order to assist and facilitate



the equipment retrieval. The 1035th Maintenance Company is undertaking the difficult task of prepping these pieces of equipment and getting them on ships.

The Division Material Management Center for Iraqi Security Forces continues to push equipment, ammunition and supplies to the Iraqi forces, while maintaining accountability of this equipment. Through the teams located in Kirkuk and in Kirkush, instruction to the brigade support units is continuing at a fast pace. These units are being taught how to receive, issue and track supplies within Iraqi army and police forces. This sets the stage for Iraqi Security Forces to assume greater responsibility throughout Iraq, especially with elections coming.

The 50th Main Support Battalion (MSB) conducted a total of 53 missions during the past week, with 16 Combat Logistic Patrols (CLP) to FOBs Warrior, Danger, Summerall, Bernstein, McKenzie, and Anaconda, for a grand total for the deployment of 36,442. The total mileage accrued during the entire deployment recently passed one million miles. The MSB commemorated the event and honored those who were wounded or died here with a "Battalion Day." The day began with a two-mile battalion fun run and ended with a promotions and awards ceremony. The wheels of the MSB will continue to turn to support the division. The scope of missions has greatly increased with the addition of Iraqi security forces equipment and early retrogrades. The Main Support Battalion works closely with the DISCOM to coordinate the road movement with Corps.

During this period, DISCOM and MSB supported FOB closings and emergency water runs to Task Force Liberty Soldiers near Samarra. The MSB has been the backbone of FOB closings and FOB security missions, moving equipment, housing units and security walls. Company E treated 425 patients this past week alone.

Conclusion

Task Force Liberty and our Iraqi security forces partners are providing a safe and secure Iraq. We are working with the Iraqi security forces to neutralize the insurgency. We are training, coaching and supporting the Iraqi security forces as they develop their own independent capabilities to defeat the insurgency and improve the quality of life for the Iraqi people. We believe in the future of Iraq. To our families, friends, employers and the American people, Task Force Liberty thanks you for your steadfast support and encouragement.

Never Forget!

For more information on the 42nd Infantry Division and Task Force Liberty:

www.42id.army.mil
